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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

February 1, 1925.



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\* Extension work in horticulture must stand or fall on \*  
\* its merits. Reports received at this office and observa- \*  
\* tions made during visits to the States, show conclusively \*  
\* that the work of the horticultural specialists is being \*  
\* well received. The future of this type of service depends \*  
\* on its accomplishments and upon the regard with which the \*  
\* general public hold the men engaged in the work. Many of \*  
\* the county agents have rendered excellent service to the \*  
\* horticultural interests of their counties, and are deserving \*  
\* of special recognition.

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\* If any state specialist has in his State a county \*  
\* agent who has rendered outstanding horticultural assist- \*  
\* ance in his county, we would like to secure the story for \*  
\* publication in the "Extension Horticulturist." It has been \*  
\* our hope ever since the Extension Horticulturist was started \*  
\* that the state men would give us from time to time accounts \*  
\* of successful methods followed and satisfactory results ob- \*  
\* tained for use in its columns. Who has something for the \*  
\* March 1st issue?

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Office of Horticultural Investigations  
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## High Points in Horticultural Extension Work.

The outstanding features of horticultural extension work during the calendar year of 1924 were the adoption of more definite long-time programs of work based upon a survey of the problems confronting the growers, the formation of closer working relations between the specialists and the county demonstration agents and the organization of special service through local leaders and organized bodies of the growers. Special service included the location of sources of planting seed, the treatment of seed, the organization of spray rings, the giving of special spray service and the organization of grading, packing and marketing organizations. One of the most important steps in advance during the year has been the revision of plans of conducting horticultural extension work and the adoption of plans covering a longer period of time than those of the past. These plans, in most instances, been based upon a careful survey of the situation and consultations with the grower, business interests, experimental workers and associated extension workers. All things considered, the year of 1924 was one of outstanding accomplishment on the part of horticultural extension workers. This was made possible from the fact that the work has been sold to the growers who have come to look to the extension forces for guidance in the solution of their major problems. This has been especially true in the control of insect pests and diseases and in the working out of better methods of grading, packing and marketing.

The work of the two Federal specialists in horticulture has consisted mainly of rendering assistance to the State specialists in making plans and determining the best line of procedure, especially with regard to long period programs of work. We have visited twenty States during the year, spending from one to six days in each state. In addition to travel and correspondence, we have endeavored to influence approximately 180 horticultural workers in the States, about 80 of whom are engaged in extension work, through the pages of the "Extension Horticulturist." Although travel funds for the year of 1925 are extremely limited, it is our hope to be able to visit at least as many of the specialists as we did during the past year and to render whatever assistance lies within our power.

Recently, we have received several reports from extension workers in the states and we are quoting from these in this issue and shall be glad to receive similar comments, especially on the high points of horticultural extension work. It is suggested that every state specialist in horticultural extension work should within the next thirty days send out something which will encourage more attention being given the farm orchard and the farm vegetable garden. We realize the outstanding importance of these two features of the farm as a means of improving the living conditions of people on farms and no greater service can be rendered these people than by aiding them in making better provision for their comfort and pleasure.

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Under date of January 14th, Mr. Claude Woolsey, Extension Horticulturist Fayetteville, Arkansas, wrote the following interesting letter:

"The "Extension Horticulturist" has come to my desk and I have read the contents with a great deal of pleasure. I regret very much that I could not attend the meeting in Washington.



I agree with the statement that our experimental work is seriously lacking in proven data, and is especially so along the lines of practical information. In other words, in a great many instances we are a jump ahead of our experimental work.

I regret very much that I overlooked the call for papers from the Extension Horticulturist, which I did not know of until I read this issue of the Horticulturist. I am sure that the extension people should have a part in the program, for as I see it, the real benefit of the enormous expenditure in the States can only be justified by the material and data secured and passed on to the farmers, and furthermore, as I see it, for no other practical reason do the research people exist. I for one, would be immensely interested in the research papers, but do not believe that this should be to the exclusion of the extension work. I try to stay up on all the experimental work in the country and therefore do a great deal of reading. I think there is a serious need of standardization of recommendations. I firmly believe that there is a right and wrong way to do a practical piece of work. If it is right in Arkansas, it must undoubtedly be right in New York, variations in weather and other things of course being considered. In other words, our research work strongly points toward trying to find something the other fellow has not done, or to disapprove what has been done, instead of either perfecting the particular problem at hand, or attacking new ones. Of course, I know that where large numbers of people are working on a particular problem, that there will be differences of opinion. I also believe that for the benefit of the various workers that these differences should be ironed out by a committee which would furnish to some degree, a standardization of recommendations."

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Under date of December 9th, we had a letter from Prof. Paul Work, Ithaca, New York, which contains a suggestion that is worthy of the thought of the vegetable men:

"Thanks for the information and comments in connection with the material in the November "Extension Horticulturist."

The paper on apple varieties is certainly a valuable contribution and I hope the vegetable men will come through as well. We have gone forward with our survey and have made up a large list to whom we expect to send questionnaires within a few days. We will probably send out 300 or 400 of them and should have fairly authoritative material when we are done.

Would it not be advisable in your publications to recognize the distinction between market gardening and trucking? The text books are in fairly general agreement on the proposition, although growers vary greatly in this usage in different localities. This gives fairly good foundation for the use of the term market gardening for production for local or nearby markets, and trucking for production or shipment. It is true that the motor transportation has widened the market garden zone very materially and has led to an increase in the number of men who are serving both local and distant markets. At the same time it seems to me the distinction still holds very well and its observance would make for clarity in all of our literature. Such a practice on your part would have its influence among the other workers in our field and would perhaps lead to the eventual abandonment of the term truck growing among the growers in our middle western cities. If this appeals to you, a comment on the idea might not be out of place in the Horticulturist."



Under date of October 18th, we received the following letter from Prof. D. C. Mooring, Extension Horticulturist, Stillwater, Oklahoma:

"Repying to your request on the front page of October issue of the Extension Horticulturist, will say that the following are a few additional points:

1. Thousands of native pecan trees bearing inferior nuts have been top worked with paper shell varieties.

2. Cypress plaster lath sub-irrigation systems have been installed in hundreds of gardens in Oklahoma. I am enclosing an Extension Circular giving details of construction and installation of this system.

3. Vegetable garden seed clubs have been organized in Oklahoma. Acreage is to consist of 1/8 acre. The exhibit is to consist of 6 different kinds of mature garden seed in amounts ranging from 4 tablespoonfuls to 1 pint. We urge this type of a club near a good market. A club member may put in the bulk of the garden in 1 or 2 kinds of vegetables and plant others in order to make the exhibit. I am enclosing a premium list of the Oklahoma State Fair and Exposition held at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and on page 25 you will note the prizes offered by this fair. I might say that the Oklahoma Free State Fair held at Muskogee, Oklahoma, offered the same prizes. Not only does this encourage commercial gardening but also home raising of vegetable seed of certain kinds of vegetables."

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Under date of January 12th, Mr. A. G. Smith, Jr. of Blacksburg, Virginia, writes the following interesting letter:

I have just read the January copy of the Extension Horticulturist with much interest. I believe in many ways, it is the best copy I have seen for some time and I wish to commend the editors for the several fundamental matters discussed.

I was particularly struck with your reference to the lack of interest among extension horticulturists for the Extension Session of the Horticultural Society, together with your references to the nature of the papers in the Research Section. I have thought a good deal about these points since my return to the office and wish to take this opportunity of expressing my opinion as my answer to your questions.

You express my feeling exactly when you state "Another point that characterized the program was the presentation of a number of preliminary or progress reports upon experimental projects. While certain of the papers gave definite results of investigational work, many of them covered but one to two years' work, and, therefore, were more or less by way of indications rather than final results. The whole program brought home vividly to the minds of the extension men the great lack of proven experimental data upon which to base horticultural extension work, and the great need for more definite research as applied to horticultural problems." I was eager to gain information from the Research Section which I might incorporate in my work. I came away much disappointed and can honestly say that the nature of the data was such that I would not feel safe in using but little, if any, of it as a basis for my recommendations for this year. As a matter of fact, I wonder if any of the papers of this type are any more valuable than similar records kept for one or two years for demonstration plots.



When I went to Washington I was one of the number who told you that I felt the Extension Section should be curtailed if not eliminated in favor of the Research Section. I believe now, however, that I would have gained more direct assistance and useful information from a thorough discussion of Extension methods and subject matter in Horticulture than I was able to secure from the brief Research papers. If the same plan were followed in the Research Section another year I would rather see the Extension Section broadened than curtailed.

If the program could be so arranged that those who attend the Extension Section would have an opportunity to hear a few good papers upon basic matters of research and teaching, I believe they would not only gain many ideas and much enthusiasm for their work, but would receive the necessary guidance from the thoroughly prepared papers to prevent them from teaching unsound practices. I believe the value of the service rendered by the Society for Horticultural Science in the future will be determined to a large extent by the degree to which the program is composed of a few strong papers as compared with a great number of lesser importance."

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#### Sweet Cherry Pollination.

Studies on the pollination of sweet cherries in the Pacific northwest have revealed the fact that some of the best commercial varieties, such as Bing, Lambert and Napoleon, are not only self sterile but inter-sterile. Two of the best varieties with which to pollinate the above are Long Stem Waterhouse and Black Tartarian. Extension Horticulturists, C. L. Long of Oregon and M. D. Armstrong of Washington, are demonstrating the top working of a portion of the commercial plantings to these pollen producing varieties. This question of sweet cherry pollination is being investigated by H. B. Tukey in the Hudson Valley of New York and his findings seem to check pretty closely with western results. In the States which produce sweet cherries we would like to have the extension horticulturists look into pollination problems this spring with a view to demonstration top working. If sweet cherries have not been setting fruit freely, it will be desirable to start demonstration grafting this spring. Note particularly the vigor of trees and the presence of winter injury, if any, or sun scald on the tree trunks.

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We had expected to give the results of our survey relative to commercial vegetable varieties in this number, but a few of the reports from state men have not been received so we are deferring the report until later.

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Arizona - University of - Tucson

Potato Growing in Northern Arizona. Ext. Cir. No. 48, July 1924.  
Iowa State College, Ames

Care of New Tree Plantings. Ext. Bul. No. 127. Aug. 1924.  
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

Turnip Plant Louse Control. Ext. Cir. No. 78, Dec. 1924.  
Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station

Spraying Schedule for Citrus in Rio Grande Valley. C - 29.

W. R. Beattie,  
C. P. Close,

Extension Horticulturists.

